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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Map of the Bobrek Steel Mill/Location/Modernization and  
Expansion/Production/Damages/Post-World War II Invest-  
ments/Personnel and Administration/Bobrek Coal Mine

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1. ☐ information on the Bobrek Steel Mill dates through early July 1954.

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Location

2. "The Bobrek steel mill, before World War II known as 'Julienhuetten', is owned by the 'Oberhuetten A. G.' steel concern located around four kilometers southwest of Bytom in the small Bobrek (German: Bobrek) settlement on Fabryczna Street.

Modernization and Expansion

3. "The Bobrek steel mill is one of the oldest enterprises of this kind in Upper Silesia. Through the years of its existence, it has undergone constant modernizations. According to available German data, in 1918 this steel mill was already equipped with the following installations:

- a. Seven blast furnaces of the old type with a rather limited capacity of around 250 tons.
- b. Six Martins ovens with a capacity of 50 to 60 tons each.
- c. Casting foundry
- d. Old type ingot iron rolling plant.
- e. Coke ovens with one battery
- f. Fire clay department

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. [redacted] from 1924 to 1942 the steel mill was under permanent remodeling and expansion. During this period the following equipment was added:

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- a. Three modern blast furnaces, with a capacity of 300 to 400 tons each (the old type of furnace was dismantled).
- b. Two modern Martins ovens with a capacity of 100 tons and 120 tons. The latter has an ultramodern installation for automatic charging and discharging and an automatic heat governor.
- c. A new forging installation
- d. One additional battery for the coke ovens

5. "An ammonia department was installed in the steel mill, and at the end of 1952, a gas pipeline was laid from the then 'Julienhütte' to the Donners-Markhütte (at that time) in Zabrze, the latter now being called Huta Zabrze.

#### Production

6. "The production of the steel mill was limited to the production of pig iron and steel in ingots without any further reprocessing. The steel or pig iron was delivered to neighboring enterprises for further working. It is estimated that at that time the production of steel averaged 400,000 tons per year. The number of workers then employed was around 8,000 men.

#### Damages

7. "During World War II the plant suffered no great damages, but the Soviet military authorities gave orders to dismantle all of the installations of the rolling mill and the forging department so that the production of the enterprise was limited in the first post-World War II years to the output of crude iron and steel produced in the form of gooses [sic].

#### Post-World War II Capital Investments

8. "Later, between 1949 and 1952, considerable capital investments were made so that the present equipment is as follows:

- a. Agglomeration Department--this department was necessitated by the delivery of fine Soviet iron ores imported as raw material for the mill.
- b. Four blast furnaces--the fourth was put into operation at the end of 1949. The average output of the furnaces is presently, according to Warsaw data, 0.940 tons per one cu. m. (the furnaces are called 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D').
- c. Seven Martins ovens (from the previous eight ovens, one with a capacity of 120 tons, is out of operation as the spare parts for the automatic heat regulator are still unobtainable). The average output of the Martins ovens is now around 3.40 tons per square meter. In line with the working plan, the Martins ovens are operated in cycles of around 45 days from which approximately 30 are actual operation days while the other 15 are needed and provided for cleaning, repairing and complete overhauling. Under this plan the production output of each Martins oven is around 50,000 tons of steel yearly, consequently yielding around 400,000 tons of steel per year as the total productivity of the entire Martins oven department with seven ovens in operation, one of them of double capacity. The foundry is attached to the steel department.
- d. A modern transportation system, (Polish term: 'Samotok') installed between the Martins oven department and the rolling department.

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e. A rolling department with a very modern type of ingot rolling plant, of the British model 'Blooming'. This installation is of Soviet production, manufactured by the 'J. Stalin' machine construction enterprise in Bobrek. The 'Blooming' installation, which was installed and set in operation by the end of 1952 having a weight of around 4,500 tons, was established in the completely rebuilt and enlarged former rolling department mill. Part of this mill is utilized for the electrical aggregates with an effective capacity of around 14,000 HP. This electrical installation is presently supplied with power by the newly constructed power plant (1952-53) from nearby Miechowice (formerly: Miechowice). The other important accessory to the 'Blooming' installation is the large shears to cut the steel ingots. They work with a pressure of around 1,000 tons. The productivity of the 'Blooming' installation is, according to Warsaw data, around one million tons of steel a year. As this amount is more than 100% higher than the steel productivity of the Bobrek enterprise, raw steel is supplied from other steel mills. In order to work on this steel, special preheating ovens have also been added to this modern rolling mill. The entire rolling department was not only the product of the USSR but was also installed by Soviet experts under the supervision of Engineer Szynkoruk. A team of experts constantly supervises the work throughout the whole steel mill.

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f. "A coke oven with two batteries with a productive capacity of around 1,400 tons of coke per day and night. The coal for the coke oven is supplied by the Rokitnica (formerly: Castellengogrube) coal mine which is located around three kilometers west of Bobrek via the cable car system. The coke for use in the other departments of the steel mill is supplied by the neighboring Bobrek coal mine (formerly: Graefin-Johanna-Schacht).

g. Ammonia Department

h. Fire Clay Department

#### Personnel

9. "The Bobrek steel mill now employs around 7,000 workers which is less than pre-World War II times due to the high mechanization of the steel mill. The mill is administered by director Loretz who is an engineer and his two deputies: chief of production Engineer Lanartowicz and a technical supervisor, Engineer Blawicki.

#### Bobrek Coal Mine

10. "The Bobrek (formerly: Graefin-Johanna-Schacht) coal mine, located north of the Bobrek steel mill, is a mine with deep-seated deposits. In this area the shafts are around 1,200 meters deep. The coal mine employs more than 2,000 coal miners, among them 500 soldiers from military labor units. The soldiers are quartered in specially established camps situated near the road connecting the Bobrek coal mine with Miechowice.

#### Legend

111.  a sketch of the Bobrek Steel Mill drawn to a scale of 1:10,000 and the following legend applies.

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| No. | Object            | Location on Plan | Remarks   |
|-----|-------------------|------------------|---|
| 1   | Bobrek Steel Mill | C,D-2,3          | Production Departments  |
|     |                   |                  | I. Blast furnaces. They are dispersed over the center part of the steel mill terrain.               |
|     |                   |                  | II. Martins ovens mill. In the southern part of the plant terrain.                                  |
|     |                   |                  | III. Rolling Mill. In the hall completely renovated and enlarged adjacent to the Martins oven mill. |

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| No. | Object   | Location<br>on plan | Remarks |
|-----|--|---------------------|---------|
| 1   | /continued from preceding page/ IV. COKE OVENS |                     |         |

Administrative and Auxiliary Installation

- a. Administration and Warehouse area
- b. Electric power plant and boiler house
- c. Iron scrap dump

1A Workers' Settlement D, E-1,2 for the Bobrek Steel Mill workers.

2 Bobrek coal mine E-1,2 None.

2A Military Barracks C-1 Barracks for the military labor units attached to the Bobrek coal mine.

3 Zinc Mill C-2 None.

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